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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/708,975	11/07/2000	JP Leon	06969025510	3206

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EXAMINER

WOO, RICHARD SUKYOON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/708,975

Applicant(s)

LEON, JP

Examiner

Richard Woo

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5.6</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 1) The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- 2) Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In Claim 1, line 8, the recitation of "an action" renders the claim indefinite because it is not clear what kind of action the method actually performs using the identifier code.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- 3) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

- 4) Claims 1-11, 13-14 and 16-17, as far as they are definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kara (US 6,505,179).

W.R.T. Claim1:

Kara discloses a method comprising:

providing a medium (preprinted blank forms in Figs.) to a user having access to a data processing system, the medium being suitable for printing a value indicium thereon and having an identifier code (see 16 in Fig. 1) that identifies the medium;

receiving from the user the identifier code of the medium to be used to purchase a value stamp (see Figs. 3-6; col. 2, line 45 – col. 3, line 16); and

using the identifier code to device whether or not to perform an action (see Id.).

W.R.T. Claim 2: Kara further discloses the method including the step of: printing the value indicium on the medium to generate a value stamp (see Figs. and Supra);

W.R.T. Claim 3: Kara further discloses the method, wherein the medium is a postage label sheet having a plurality of labels (see Id.);

W.R.T. Claim 4: Kara further discloses the method, wherein a plurality of value indicia are printed on the labels (see Supra);

W.R.T. Claim 5: Kara further discloses the method including the step of: determining whether an affiliate of a service provider requires an additional supply of the medium by examining the identifier code, wherein the affiliate is the user or a provider of the medium to the user, and wherein the service provider is an agent authorized to provide the value stamp to the user (see Figs. 3-6 and the descriptions thereof; col. 2, line 45 – col. 3, line 16);

W.R.T. Claim 6: Kara further discloses the method including the steps of:

generating CRM information at least for the identifier code of the medium;

storing the generated CRM information in a database system, wherein the database system includes CRM information corresponding to a plurality of media; and

retrieving the CRM information corresponding to the identifier code received from the user, wherein the retrieved CRM information is used to determine whether the affiliate requires the additional supply of the medium (see *Supra*);

W.R.T. Claim 7: Kara further discloses the method, wherein the value indicium is a postage indicium (see *Supra*);

W.R.T. Claim 8: Kara further discloses the method, wherein the identifier code is a label serial number or a sheet serial number (see Fig. 1 for example);

W.R.T. Claim 9: Kara further discloses the method, wherein the identifier code enables one group of media to be differentiated from another group (see Figs. 1, 3-6; col. 2, line 45 – col. 3, line 16);

W.R.T. Claim 10: Kara further discloses the method, wherein using the identifier code involves determining whether or not the action is required on the fly by examining the code (see *Id.*); and

W.R.T. Claim 11: Kara further discloses the method, wherein the action includes determining whether or not to allow the user to use the medium to purchase a value stamp over the network (authentication).

W.R.T. Claim 13:

Kara discloses a method comprising:

generating CRM information corresponding to an identifier code of a medium to be distributed to a user, the medium being suitable for printing a value indicium thereon to produce a value stamp, the identifier code being suitable for distinguishing the medium from at least one other medium (see Figs. 1, 3-6; col. 2, line 45 – col. 3, line 16);

storing the generated CRM information in a database system, wherein the database system includes CRM information corresponding to a plurality of media;

providing the medium to a user having access to a data processing system;

receiving from the user over the network the identifier code of the medium to be used to purchase a value stamp; and

retrieving the CRM information corresponding to the code (see Supra).

W.R.T. Claim 14: Kara further discloses the method including the step of: determining whether an affiliate of a service provider requires an additional supply of the medium by examining the identifier code, wherein the affiliate is the user or a provider of the medium to the user, and wherein the service provider is an agent authorized to provide the value stamp to the user (see Figs. 1, 3-6; col. 2, line 45 – col. 3, line 16); and

W.R.T. Claim 16: Kara further discloses the method, wherein the code is additionally used as a security feature of the medium (see Id.).

W.R.T. Claim 17:

Kara discloses a method comprising the steps of:

generating CRM information corresponding to a serial number of a medium to be distributed to a user, the medium being suitable for printing a value indicium thereon, the serial number uniquely identifying the medium (see Figs. 1, 3-6; col. 2, line 45 – col. 3, line 16);

storing the generated CRM information in a database system, wherein the database system includes CRM information corresponding to a plurality of media;

providing the medium to a user having access to a data processing system (see *Id.*);

receiving from the user over the network the serial number of the medium to be used to purchase a value stamp; and

determining whether an affiliate of a service provider requires an additional supply of the medium by examining the identifier code, wherein the affiliate is the user or a provider of the medium to the user, and wherein the service provider is an agent authorized to provide the value stamp to the user (see *Supra*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5) Claims 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kara.

Kara discloses the invention as cited above but does not expressly disclose the limitations in Claims 12 and 15.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to require the user to purchase the medium or commit to purchasing a medium before allowing the user to use the medium to purchase the value stamp if not purchased previously because Applicant has not disclosed that require the user the purchase the medium provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the invention of Kara because Kara is related to electronic commerce in general and in particular to a system and method for establishing the authenticity of a past electronic communication at the point of the consummation of the commercial endeavor which is the subject of the electronic communications.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the invention of Kara to obtain the invention as specified in claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

EP 1022688 is cited to show a postage printing system, comprising a computer, a data center, a control system and a redemption center. The system is related to a postage printing system including subsidies for printing of third party coupons.


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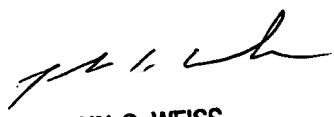
US 6,244,763 is cited to show a pc postage label having at least one self-adhesive special purpose label arrangement set having a postage indicia label, an addressee label, and a sender label. The postage computer software interfaces with and directs the printer to print the label set with the postage indicia, the addressee information, and sender information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.


Richard Woo
Patent Examiner
GAU 3629
March 19, 2004


JOHN G. WEISS
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